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Title: Warren to receive \$225K in ag funds

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Lead:

Nearly \$225,000 in Kentucky agricultural development funds were recently approved for Warren County.

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Nearly \$225,000 in Kentucky agricultural development funds were recently approved for Warren County.

The allocations for agricultural diversification programs were approved at a monthly meeting of the state's agricultural development board.

The Warren County Farm Bureau, the Warren County Cattle Producers Association, the Warren County Conservation District and the Mammoth Cave Area Goat Producers Association submitted cost-sharing proposals to the board and the Warren County Agricultural Development Council.

The conservation district received \$60,000 in support of its forage resource and improvement program, which provides cost-share assistance to county farmers. The district received the same amount last year.

Under the program, local farmers can apply to have wet areas of fields covered with perforated plastic tiles, making grounds more suitable for crops, according to district technician Penny Warwick.

The farm bureau received \$30,000 for its county hay, straw and commodity storage program, which offers cost-share assistance to farmers seeking improved feed and straw quality. The cattle producers association received \$50,000 for a similar program.

John Westbrook, chairman of the farm bureau's storage program, said the bureau uses the funds to supply farmers with grain and commodity bins of varying sizes. He said the cattle producers association oversees straw and hay barn storage for county farmers.

The cattle producers association also received \$30,000 to support a genetic improvement program to increase genetic quality of dairy and beef cattle and nearly \$30,000 for a cattle handling facilities program, which offers cost-share assistance to county beef and dairy producers.

The goat producers association received \$15,000 to augment its goat and sheep diversification program, which helps farmers improve genetics of goat and sheep herds.

Fifty percent of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement is invested in the state agricultural development fund with the goal of lessening state dependence on tobacco production, according to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$244 million in a variety of county, regional and state projects designed to increase farm income and create sustainable farm-based businesses.

Warren County diversification programs represent nearly 3,000 projects that have been funded by the state agricultural development fund since the program's 2001 inception.

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